

*Alphabetical  
Box*

Atlee (W. L.)  
REPORT

OF A

CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

EXTRACTED FROM THE

REPORT OF T. W. BLATCHFORD, M. D.,

IN TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

FOR THE YEAR 1856.

WITH AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING THE REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF CITIZENS OF LANCASTER, PA.,  
ON THE EFFICACY OF STOY'S CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA.

✓ BY

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OF PHILADELPHIA.



PHILADELPHIA:  
T. K. AND P. G. COLLINS, PRINTERS.  
1856.

Atlee (v. l.)  
M. H. O. R. T.

CASE OF MORTGAGE

IN THE COURT OF COMMONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE

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THE following case of Hydrophobia, at the time of its occurrence, excited the most intense interest throughout the whole community of Lancaster. Even after the death of the unfortunate victim, the excitement continued for some time, in consequence of a statement that Stoy's remedy had been used in this case, and had failed. The family of Stoy formerly belonged to Lancaster, and this remedy for Hydrophobia was, by many, considered infallible. Hence a statement of this kind, authorized by a regular member of the profession, was considered as an attack upon the character of a celebrated remedy, whose preparation was kept a secret by the family; and as this disease had baffled the skill of the faculty, the citizens of Lancaster took up the defence of this medicine with commendable spirit and energy. The current of feeling was so strong, that several of my friends insisted on my recalling the statement, fearing that it would result to my injury. Of course, as a truthful historian, reporting the words of the patient herself, I rejected the proposition, and afterwards published a very detailed account of the case in the newspapers, repeating the objectionable statement over my own name. This by no means lessened the excitement. A town meeting was called, and numerously attended. A committee was "appointed to investigate the late Hydrophobia case, and to test the efficacy of Stoy's Medicine." This committee consisted of highly respectable citizens, who conducted the investigation with great industry and zeal. Their report is given in the Appendix, and although the spirit of that report indicates that everything favorable was said of Stoy's remedy that could be stated, yet the facts adduced afford only *negative* testimony of its value as a *prophylactic*, and no evidence at all of its virtue as a *remedy*. Even the case of Mr. Hardman's daughter, and that of Mr. Middleton, the only cases offered by the committee as instances of *cure*, must be considered valueless, because they are very loosely reported by non-profes-



sional observers, and have no symptoms differing from ordinary disease as daily met with in practice. However convincing such an array of facts might prove to the general mind, the medical and philosophic inquirer can discover nothing in them upon which to build a hope.

To show the great interest manifested in the case, I have also placed in the Appendix, extracts from several of the newspapers which noticed it at the time.

As expressive of my views in regard to publications of this kind in the newspapers, I copy the following note, which was sent to the editor, with the history of the case:—

“LANCASTER, *February 20, 1839.*

“MR. MIDDLETON—

“*Dear Sir:* At your particular request, I herewith send you a detailed account of the symptoms and treatment of the case of Hydrophobia, which recently occurred in this city. In doing this, I do not wish to be understood as approving of this method of publishing, or recording cases of disease. Medical men have their medical journals, through which their communications can be offered to the members of the medical profession, to whom they properly belong. Nor would I have consented, had I not known the exciting interest that is felt in all classes of the community, by the occurrence of this frightful disease, and in consequence of this excitement, the tendency there is to magnify and falsify the circumstances attending the progress of the case. The strongest inducement, however, for consenting to adopt this method in making this case public, is to bring it more particularly before the medical practitioners of our own county, who, as the guardians of the health of our community, can have the benefit of the history of this case, should such a misfortune occur again in any part of our county. I shall avoid, as much as I can with propriety, the use of those terms not capable of being understood by the common reader.”

## CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

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ON Saturday, the 9th Feb., 1839, I was called upon to visit Mrs. Elizabeth Keely. I found my patient to be an intelligent-looking woman, of spare habits, of ordinary stature, and about 34 years old. She told me that she had an attack of rheumatism in her arm, and complained of pain the whole extent of her left arm, particularly in the shoulder. She informed me that she had felt unwell for three or four weeks before, and that on Wednesday previous she had perceived some soreness on the back of the hand, which, continuing to increase, had travelled up to her elbow on Thursday, and, becoming more and more severe, had on Friday reached the shoulder. During the progress of the pain, having received a phial of British oil from a neighbor, she rubbed it on her arm without receiving any relief. She then, of her own accord, applied a blister on the outside of her arm just below the shoulder, with no better success. On Saturday, the pain becoming worse, and advancing into the left side of the neck, and through the armpit into the left breast, she thought it advisable to consult a physician, and I was sent for.

I found the symptoms as above described, with the pain more acute in the joints than in any other part of the arm, taking on the character of the local symptoms of acute rheumatism. Her countenance was somewhat anxious, and her manner a little hurried. The tongue was lightly coated with a yellowish fur; the pulse, skin, and other perceptible functions being natural. I prescribed a blister to be placed on the spine between the shoulders, and four cathartic pills, composed of submur. hydrar., aloë socotor., convol. jalap., stalagm. cambog., sapo. castil., to be taken im-



mediately. Upon taking leave of her, I directed her to send me word in the morning if she was not better, or sooner if she became worse.

On Sunday morning, the 10th inst., word came that she was no better. At 9½ o'clock A. M., I visited her, and was informed by her husband that she had passed a bad night. Shortly after she had retired to bed, she was aroused by a sense of suffocation, and tightness of the chest, with pain in the præcordia, or at the lower part of the breast-bone. After this she could not sleep. Every few minutes throughout the night she would suddenly start up with a wild and anxious countenance, a sensation of smothering, and with feelings of great distress. On attempting to drink, she discovered that she could not swallow, and that every attempt excited spasms in her throat, and aggravated these distressful symptoms. Her peculiar situation alarmed Mr. Keely very much, and he was on the point of starting for me several times in the night, but, through fear of causing too much trouble, he did not inform me until morning. At the time I was there, she had become rather more calm and easy, though I observed occasionally a slight spasmodic action of her throat, and some hurry of speech. She picked up a bottle of spirits of camphor off the stove and smelt it, and immediately she was seized with slight spasms of the chest and neck. On repeating it, the same results followed, when she gave the bottle to her little daughter, telling her to take it away. There was a wildness and an impatience depicted in her countenance during these spells totally different from anything I had ever observed in other spasmodic affections. Even after these spasms were off, she had an expression of anxiety, and complained of great pain and soreness of the præcordia, and weight on her breast, with an inability to swallow anything. The most distressing symptom was the pain in the præcordia. The blister had drawn well, but, instead of being placed over the spine, it had been applied midway between the shoulder and spine; and the pills had operated freely. Her tongue was still coated with a yellowish fur, and her pulse free from excitement. The pain in the arm was entirely gone, excepting a little uneasiness she experienced in the shoulder.

It was during this visit that I was first informed that she had been bitten by a mad dog. She then resided in Philadelphia, and while walking along the street a dog rushed out and bit her in the back of the left arm, causing an extensive lacerated wound extend-

ing down to the sinews. After going home she returned to the place where she received the injury to ascertain the condition of the dog, and discovered that he had been chained up for mad, and had just broken loose as she was passing by, and bit her and several others, and that he had afterwards been killed. She immediately consulted Dr. Pennypacker, of Philadelphia, who ordered her to soak the wound in salt water, and afterwards to apply to it a salt poultice. This was on Saturday the 3d of November last. On Monday following she called on Dr. George McClellan, who was not at home. On her way home she called at the house of a friend, who advised her to employ Stoy's cure. They informed her that about eighteen years before two of their children had been bitten by a mad dog, and the attack of hydrophobia was prevented by taking Stoy's medicine. They procured the medicine for her, and she went through a full and regular course of it, commencing on that day. The medicine had the effect of producing copious vomiting on the two first days that she took it, but not afterwards. Shortly after adopting these precautionary measures, the family removed to Lancaster; since their removal to this place, she enjoyed good health until about three or four weeks ago, from which time, until the period of her attack, she said she "was not very well." The wound had healed up well, but the scar always remained tender and livid, and she frequently felt a numbness in her arm accompanied by a sensation best understood by the term "asleep."

After giving me this history of herself, she said she did not believe her present sickness proceeded from the bite of the dog. Knowing the powerful influence that the mind exerts upon disease of this character, I encouraged her in this idea, and was careful, in directing my inquiries to her, to avoid exciting in her any suspicion that I believed it. Although apprehensive of the nature of her disease, and strongly desirous of employing certain means of confirming my opinion, I cautiously avoided everything that would lead her mind to a different result. I think, however, that, although she openly discarded the idea that her illness proceeded from the bite of the dog, her manner disclosed that she secretly believed that to be the cause. I prescribed a combination of submur. hydrar., pulver. ipecac., āā grs. v., to be taken every two hours.

Upon my way home I met my brother, Dr. John L. Atlee, and told him my fears respecting my patient, requesting him to hold himself in readiness to visit her in company with me, in case I was



more fully convinced of the character of the disease upon my next visit.

At one o'clock P. M. of the same day, I visited her again. She received me tranquilly, and expressed herself glad to see me. Her symptoms were now more distressing than they were before. She had a more wild and anxious look; her breathing was accompanied with a short convulsive sobbing inspiration; and the spasms of the chest and throat were more violent, and came on spontaneously every few minutes. There was no febrile excitement. Her tongue, pulse, and skin continued the same. I examined the wound particularly. It still retained its livid appearance, but it was entirely free from tenderness. She had taken one dose only of the medicine, and that with the greatest pain and difficulty, and accompanied with violent spasm. She said it almost choked her when she attempted to swallow it. A short time after she had taken this powder, sickness of the stomach came on, and she vomited three or four successive times, ejecting a quantity of slime. During the last act of vomiting from this powder, she threw off a considerable portion of blood. In consequence of the distress and difficulty produced by taking this first powder, she had desisted from the attempt of taking any more, although she said she felt relieved after she had vomited. Her attention was now directed to her power of swallowing. She said she could not swallow. In reply to my several queries, she observed that she could not explain the reason of her difficulty to swallow; her throat was not sore; *she could not say that she had any dread of fluids*; she was willing and desirous of taking them; yet, whenever she attempted it, she was seized with an intense sense of smothering and spasm of the throat which she could not control. Upon expressing my desire that she should overcome this spasmodic action of the throat by a strong effort of her mind, she replied, "Well, Doctor, I will try." She then took a cup containing a little toast-water off the stove, and, clearing out her throat, she prepared herself for drinking. I now watched her with the most intense anxiety. She carried the cup half way up to her mouth, then stopped. Her countenance at this time was most peculiar and indescribable. Her features were set, fixed. It appeared as if the energies of her mind were concentrating themselves for some dreadful effort. She carried the cup near to her mouth, then stopped again. I could observe, on her fixed and determined countenance, a commingling of much excitement



and alarm. *I could there read the unconquerable dread of a fluid.* She put the cup to her lips—and at once the horrors of hydrophobia burst upon me. I shudder even now at the recital—but it cannot be described—it must be seen. The cup had no sooner touched her lips than she was thrown into violent spasms. First, a sudden, quick, convulsive inspiration, accompanied by a noise as if the air was drawn forcibly through a very narrow chink, violent contraction of the muscles of the neck and face, and drawing up of the shoulders and breast, and great retraction of the pit of the stomach and abdomen. The skin of the throat in front of the larynx was corrugated by spasm. Her countenance expressed the greatest anxiety and distress, and her body was thrown forward by the spasmodic action. This dreadful agony lasted about half a minute. As soon as it was over, she said: “Doctor, I will try it again.” Precisely the same scene followed. Again she tried it, and succeeded in getting about a teaspoonful in her mouth. Now making two or three efforts at deglutition without avail, with one desperate effort she swallowed it.

It must be at once perceived that my patient was a woman of extraordinary resolution and firmness, and knowing this, I urged her to take her powders regularly in spite of the difficulty. She said, “Doctor, I suffer very much from the attempt; but I will take them.” Her husband remarked to me that he believed her illness proceeded from the bite of the dog. She replied, “No; it’s rheumatism; I’ll soon be better of the spasms.” Although she seemed unwilling to permit her mind to believe it, yet I think she was perfectly conscious of the truth of her husband’s opinion.

After ordering a continuance of the medicine already prescribed, and the application of a large blister along the course of the spine, commencing at the nape of the neck, I left her.

At 3½ o’clock P. M., I visited her in consultation with my brother, Dr. John L. Atlee. The introduction of my brother produced no unusual agitation. She appeared glad to see us, and was quite observant of the common courtesies of life, getting up and offering us chairs, and requesting us to be seated. She had taken another powder, but with great difficulty. This was succeeded by vomiting a large quantity of yellowish-green slime, and some blood, which entirely relieved her of the pain in the præcordia. Since the vomiting had ceased, there had been no recurrence of the spasms, unless she attempted to drink, and then they were less

violent. She expressed herself much better, and perfectly free from pain. The stricture and weight on her chest diminished, and there was less anxiety of the countenance. No febrile excitement—pulse in an upright position was 84; in a recumbent posture, 72 in the minute. The fauces or throat was free from irritation, except a narrow stripe of red on the edge of the right palatine arch, which appeared more like mere engorgement of the capillary vessels than inflammation. She had no soreness or pain in the throat. There was some tenderness, particularly during spasm, in both sides of the neck immediately below the mastoid process. There was no tonic rigidity of the muscles of the neck as occurs in tetanus or lock-jaw, and even during the paroxysms of spasm, the tension was confined to the respiratory muscles. We offered her different kinds of drink, all of which were followed by spasms, less violent, however, than before. Cold drink caused stronger spasms than warm did. In consequence of the blister having been applied much lower down than had been ordered, and with a view, also, of extending the decorticated surfaces for the purpose of introducing medicines into the system by means of the endermic practice, we ordered another blister over the back of the neck. Applied 1 gr. of acetate of morphia sprinkled on simple cerate to the blister on the shoulder blade. After administering another powder, which she swallowed with less difficulty, we left her.

At 6 o'clock P. M. information was received that she was no worse.

At 8½ o'clock P. M. we saw her again. The change for the better was quite evident on our first entering the room. Both she and her husband expressed their gratification at her manifest improvement. She had had no spontaneous spasms since our last visit, excepting one, and that came on while lying down. I would observe here that there was always a much stronger tendency to spasms when in a recumbent posture. Her spirits were much improved, and her countenance less anxious. The spasms caused by drinking were much lighter. There was no pain in the præcordia, and the skin was soft and moist, and pulse 90. The powder we had administered at our last visit produced vomiting of the same kind of fluid without blood. She had taken another dose of it, about an hour before, which had not been followed by vomiting. She said she felt drowsy, and thought she could sleep. On handing her a piece of toast and requesting her to eat, she took a small bite,



chewed it and swallowed it with tolerable ease, and repeated it two or three times. Observing that it was rather dry, we offered her a drink, but as soon as she placed it to her mouth, the spasms supervened, though less violent than before. Toast soaked in water could also be eaten in small bits without spasms. She tried to drink repeatedly, and succeeded in getting a little down, and it was always attended with spasm. Noticing that the spasm commenced just at the moment she attempted to draw in the drink into her mouth, we suggested to her another plan: to open her mouth wide, permit us to lay a teaspoon filled with water full in her mouth, then close her lips and refrain from sucking it out of the spoon. Having done this, and then emptying the spoon by inverting it, it was followed by a much lighter spasm than when drank from a cup. In drinking with a quill also, her spasms were weaker. It appeared as if the wetting of the lips and the effort of sucking in the fluid favored the production of the spasm. Ordered the blister to be dressed with basilicon ointment, and prescribed Submur. hydrar. grs. x; Pulv. ipecac. grs. iiss.

On Monday, February 11th, 8 o'clock A. M., I visited her alone. She informed me that she had altogether during the night about one hour's unsound sleep, and more in the early part of the evening than afterwards. She was not able to drink all night, she could not swallow, and thinks her spasms, on attempting to drink, were stronger and of longer continuance. She endeavored to get down some drink by soaking it up with toast, but she could not. During the night, two spasms came on spontaneously while lying down. She said she was very bad early this morning; she experienced feelings of intense distress, and was thrown into spasms whenever the door was opened and admitted the cold air; felt her spirits give way, and her thirst was extreme. At this time she felt the spasms working in her, every four or five minutes, although they did not break out, producing great agony. She continued in this way until she made several desperate efforts to drink some warm coffee, which she succeeded in forcing into her by means of a quill, to the amount of nearly half a pint. This was the largest quantity of fluid she had taken since the spasms commenced, and it had quite a tranquillizing effect upon her, causing the great anxiety and distress to diminish. After this she washed her face with a camphor rag, and while doing it was affected with spasm. Although she expressed herself much better than she had been earlier in the



morning, I noticed more anxiety and wildness in her countenance than the evening before. Her pulse was not quite so full, the skin rather below the natural temperature, the tongue more thickly coated with the same kind of fur, the breathing seemed rather more difficult, and was interrupted by peculiar sobs and deep sighs. While I was there, she picked up a cold handkerchief to wipe her mouth, and it brought on spasm as soon as it touched her face. She had taken two powders after we had left her last night, which produced vomiting of a yellowish, bitter and frothy fluid, and some blood; but she postponed taking any more after 12 o'clock in the night, in consequence of the great difficulty she experienced in swallowing them, and the sickness they produced, although she admitted that she was always relieved after vomiting. The blisters had drawn well; the cuticle being raised throughout their whole extent. I gave her another powder rubbed up in sugar, which, with the aid of coffee and the quill, she succeeded in getting down, not, however, without considerable difficulty.

At 11 o'clock A. M. visited her with my brother. Her skin was of the natural temperature and moisture, pulse fuller, tongue the same, and countenance less anxious. She had had no spontaneous spasms since; they still came on, however, on every attempt to drink. She complained that the heat of the stove sickened her, but she could not bear the doors open. On attempting to drink some coffee with a quill, she was thrown into a violent spasm, and succeeded in swallowing only a little. The powder which I had given her at my last visit caused her to throw off the same kind of fluid, and a living lumbricus. We examined the blister that had been dressed yesterday by the morphia, and the morphia appeared to be absorbed. The fresh blistered surface on the neck was now dressed with acetate of morphia, and, upon applying the cerate cold to the blister, it produced a paroxysm. Her bowels not having been moved since Saturday, we prescribed, in the form of pill, *Oleum tiglli*, gtt. ij, every hour until the desired effect would be produced.

At 3 o'clock P. M. visited her in company with Dr. E. Parry. Her symptoms were about the same; pulse 88. She had taken only two doses of the oil, and without effect. Gave her another dose, which she swallowed with difficulty. When taking some tea after it, she was thrown into severe spasms, and said she *did not like to see drink come near her*. Uniformly in taking drink she would

hesitate, as before described, several times before she would place the cup to her lips, and as soon as she attempted to suck in the fluid, the spasms would commence. She had got into a doze about an hour before, and was awakened by her son suddenly entering the room, which produced a violent paroxysm. Applied morphia again to a blistered surface.

At 6 o'clock P. M., received word that she was no better, and that the medicine had not operated.

At 8 o'clock P. M., called again, with my brother and Mr. Landis, a student. Her pulse was 90; skin and countenance the same. The lower gums and the sides of the tongue appeared excited, resembling the mercurial blush, but it was not attended with the coppery taste and mercurial odor. She had had several very severe spasms from cool air coming over her face, and also from her attempts to drink. She got a most violent spasm when the family were at supper, caused by the noise of pouring out tea. This spasm raised her off her seat, and was accompanied with a peculiar spasmodic noise, great horror of countenance, and a throwing of the hands about. We now spread 30 grs. of submur. hydrar. on a small piece of bread, part of which she ate without difficulty, complaining of it being very dry. We offered her drink, but she did not appear to want the cup; she took the quill out of the drink, and hastily drew the wetted end through her mouth, thus catching a drop. This was followed by light spasm. We then advised her to dip the bread in tea to moisten it, but she did not seem inclined to do it. Observing her dread of the fluid, I dipped it in for her, when she ate it. She said she had dozed a little, and she thought she could doze more through the night. She had taken since the last visit two doses more of the oleum tiglli, making in all 10 gtt., without any effect. Prescribed submur. hydrarg. grs. xv, pulv. ipecac. grs. iij, to be taken every three hours during the night.

On Tuesday, February 12th, at one o'clock A. M., I was called up by a messenger, telling me that Mrs. Keely was much worse, and that I should hurry over. When I arrived there, Mr. Keely informed me that, while he was lying dozing on a chair, she alarmed him very much by suddenly starting up, and flying across the room, with wildness and impatience, towards the front door. He asked her what was the matter, and she replied she wished to lock the door, and then as suddenly rushed towards the back door. Mr. Keely said that, for a considerable time before this came on her, she

had been engaged in prayer, and in hearing the Bible read, according to her request, and that she expressed herself sensible of her situation, and was anxious to prepare herself for the final result. Before my arrival, and immediately after that spell, she had several spasms more violent than at any time before. She had taken one of the powders with great difficulty, and in attempting to take another, it brought on very severe paroxysms, accompanied with *ejectio urinæ*. When the spasms became so violent, she requested her husband to tie her, no doubt fearing that in those moments of intense agony she might injure some one. When I arrived, her children were in the room with her. She said that before she got so bad she had felt extremely happy, and had her children called up around her, that she "felt as if she could go," and spoke a long time to her children and husband, as one taking an everlasting farewell. She told me she felt so much composed when her mind was engaged in such reflections, and desired that the Bible might be read again. I asked her whether I should read it for her, and she assenting, I inquired what portion of the Scripture she preferred. She replied: "The 52d chapter of Isaiah." I read that chapter slowly and distinctly for her, and when done, inquired if I should read on. She said: "I am afraid of tiring you; but I would like to hear more." I then continued, and read eight or nine of the succeeding chapters, asking her, at the end of every chapter, whether I should read on. I then observed that perhaps there were other portions of Scripture she would like to have read. She replied: "You are too kind; but if you are not tired, I should like you to read of the sufferings and death of our Saviour." I then turned over to Matthew and read for her. During all this time, she remained perfectly composed and tranquil, although her spasms had been so violent before. Shortly after this, my brother arrived. Upon asking her to let us see her tongue, she became greatly agitated; her countenance became wild and suspicious; and with appearance of great dread, she said "she could not bear the candle." She was sitting with her back turned towards the candle, but she observed my brother reaching for it, and, although the candle was not touched, instantly she was thrown into the most violent paroxysm I had yet seen. Her head was thrown about from side to side in dreadful anguish, and fearing that she might injure those who were holding her, I placed my hand upon her head to secure her, but her agony was very much increased, and she earnestly called out: "Take off



your hand! take off your hand!" My brother remained until 3 o'clock, at which time we gave her pulv. ipecac. grs. xx, acetate of morphia, gr. ss.

She hesitated for a long time before she took it, saying, "I can take no more," and while preparing to give it to her, she appeared violently agitated, and was seized with incessant spasmodic sobbings. She at last consented to try it, but would not have it moistened; it was mixed up with dry sugar, and she took it, and succeeded in swallowing it with great difficulty, but without much spasm. I remained with her until 4 o'clock, and during this time she had several very severe paroxysms. They sometimes would come on spontaneously; others would be excited by walking through the room, and agitating the air. Her dread of fluids was so great that no drink was offered to her. During these paroxysms, which lasted from half to a whole minute, the inspirations and expirations were quick and spasmodic, producing a singular sound by the concussion of the sudden ingress and egress of air, which, to a warm and prepossessed imagination, might seem to be a kind of barking. This no doubt has given rise to the vulgar idea that a barking like that of a dog is one of the symptoms of hydrophobia. The spasm generally commenced with a sudden, forcible, and spasmodic *spitting*, very quickly repeated, resembling very much the spitting of an irritated cat, and ended with a deep inspiration or sigh. She frequently had very sudden convulsive sobbing inspirations, sometimes only one, at others two or three in rapid succession, and both in these and in the spasms, her countenance would get much more wild and anxious. Her skin was moist, pulse rather quicker, and she complained more of the heat of the room. Prescribed a powder like the last, to be given every two hours.

Before I took my leave of her this morning, she seemed desirous of knowing my opinion of the result of her case. I told her that her disease was one of a very fatal character, but that we were not entirely without hope; that, in consequence of the manifest amendment that had occurred in her symptoms, we had good cause for encouragement; and that, if her constitution was good and the treatment persevered in, the disease might probably wear itself out, and the system afterwards be restored to health. She replied, she hoped that it might be so, but she expected a different result. I informed her that it was impossible for us to tell, at the present stage of her case, how her disease would terminate, yet, as there was great uncer-

tainty, it would be better for her to prepare for the worst, and then, in any event, she would be safe. She assented to what I said, and observed that she was not fully prepared to leave this world, and felt desirous of conversing with some person concerning the salvation of her soul; she said that, if her mind was fully prepared, she was sure that in her moments of ease between the spasms, she would feel resigned, and consoled with the idea that when she left this world of pain she would be happy in the other. Upon asking her whether she would like to receive the visits of a clergyman, she replied, "Oh! yes, I would be much pleased; but I am a stranger, and know no clergyman." I assured her that would make no difference; that either of them would call to see her with pleasure; and as she said that she belonged to the Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, I would request the Rev. Mr. Davie to see her.

During this conversation, she was quite calm and collected, and free from spasms.

Before going home, I left two more powders like the last, to be taken two hours apart.

At 8 o'clock A. M., Mr. Keely called and stated that the powder we had given her at 3 o'clock sickened her very much and produced some drowsiness, but no sleep. The other powders she found it impossible to take.

At 9½ o'clock A. M., visited her again with my brother and Messrs. Landis and Maxwell, medical students. She had taken one powder this morning in her husband's absence. She was pretty much in the same situation as when we last left her, though she said she was worse, and the spasms stronger. The spasms appeared as if they were becoming more general, and they were now always accompanied with that peculiar noise. There was yet no tonic or tetanic rigidity of the muscles. The action of the heart was rather strong, and stronger than was indicated by the pulse at the wrist. Prescribed a blister to the præcordia.

At 11 o'clock A. M., I called upon the Rev. Mr. Davie and requested him to accompany me to see Mrs. Keely. At the time we entered her room, the spasms were very strong, and she was suffering much agony when I introduced Mr. Davie to her. Her paroxysms were now more violent and frequent than before, accompanied with intense anxiety and horror of countenance, spasmodic noise, and an urgent desire for air, calling on those in the room to open the doors. During the spasms she requested those who held

her to press strongly on the pit of the stomach. She complained of thirst, and desired to have something with which she could moisten her mouth. She asked for coffee, but, as it approached her, she was seized with strong spasms; by repeated efforts, however, she drew in a little through a quill, and succeeded in swallowing it. Her respiration was frequently interrupted with convulsive sobs, and she was often hawking up, and spitting out, as if phlegm was always collecting in her throat. She found it very difficult to speak, not appearing to have full control over the organs of speech; it appeared as if the attempt at speaking produced a spasmodic restlessness of the articulating muscles, which rendered it painful for her to speak. Becoming a little more composed, she apologized to Mr. Davie for not being able to converse with him, but said she was glad to see him. He was engaged with her in conversation and prayer about half an hour, which had a most tranquillizing effect upon her. During the whole of this period she was remarkably calm, and free from spasm, although her paroxysms before and immediately after were frequent and of the most violent character. It would appear, from this circumstance, as if the exercise of the mind in this disease had some mysterious connection with the production of spasm; for, as the paroxysms were entirely suspended while the mind was engaged in this all-absorbing question, and as they recurred so soon as the mind was not thus exercised, it would indicate almost as close a relation as cause and effect. The members of the profession will at once observe the correspondence between this circumstance in this case, and a distinguishing feature of chorea, viz: the act of volition being necessary to the convulsive movements.

In consequence of the frequent occurrence of spasm, the blister was not applied to the præcordia. She, this morning, again requested to be tied; but as we found that she could be managed with safety, we considered it unnecessary and forbade it. Before leaving her, I applied more morphia to the blistered surface.

At 2 o'clock P. M., called to see her again, with my brother. Her paroxysms had been frequent and strong since our last visit. She inquired of us whether bleeding would not weaken her, as if she desired it to shorten her existence. She said her "feelings were awful; no one knew, and wished it was over." She lamented about her children and husband—"that was her only trouble," and desired us to comfort Mr. Keely. We attempted to give her another powder, composed of submur. hydr., grs. xxx, pulv. ipecac., grs. v,



spread on bread. She ate about half of it, and after having chewed it for a considerable time, she attempted to swallow it, but could not, saying it was so dry that she could not get it to the right place to swallow it. Persevering, however, with very strong efforts, she succeeded in getting some down, and it was followed by a most violent paroxysm, raising her up on her feet, and producing, in the violence of the struggle, the most wild and despairing expression of countenance. During mastication, the tongue was frequently and suddenly protruded, appearing covered with a darker coat; and her lips became encrusted with a dark-colored matter. There was incessant hawking up of the phlegm which collected in her throat, and spitting of it about the room. She complained of great dryness of the mouth, but would not moisten it; and strongly opposed the administration of more medicines, seeming to dread them. Talking was more and more difficult, and was interrupted by spasms of the throat, and convulsive sobbings. Pulse 100. Prescribed oleum cajeputi, drachms ij, pulv. opii, drachm i, to be mixed and rubbed in around the neck and breast.

At 6 o'clock P. M., visited with Dr. Hopkins and Mr. Landis. Found her in a state of very great nervous excitement, her manner wild and hurried; would startle at the least noise or motion; had great dread of candlelight, and the snuffing of the candle produced great agitation; incessant hawking, and vehement efforts to spit out the frothy phlegm; and her face was turned away from those who sat in front of her, as if she dreaded the brilliancy of their eyes, or the effect of their breath on her face, which produced spasm. When the spasms came on her, she would call furiously for air—for the doors to be open. Delirium appeared to be approaching. She said that Mr. Davie had been there in the afternoon, and she had been much comforted, and that she now was "willing and ready to go." In consequence of the vapor of the oleum cajeputi exciting spasm, it was discontinued.

At 8 o'clock P. M., saw her again, with my brother, Drs. Hopkins and Kerfoot, and Messrs. Landis and Maxwell. We entered the room with great caution and the utmost quietness, and although her back was turned towards the door, and a large quilt, hung up, intervened, she was instantly sensible of the increased number in the room, and was greatly agitated in consequence of it. The nervous excitement and restlessness were extreme, her countenance was marked with great horror and dread, and whenever she was the least startled, it was characterized by unutterable anguish and terror.

There was considerable delirium; the mind was wandering and unsteady, ideas incoherent, and she was much more talkative. She referred several times to the mad dog—"Yes, it was the dog;" "I know it was the mad dog." And she would say: "Come, Mr. Keely, let's take a walk—let's go to the door—let's go down stairs, Mr. Keely—let's go to bed—let's go home," and so on in a wild and impatient strain. We talked to her about bleeding her, and, without replying to us, she said wildly: "Shall I, Mr. Keely? You think I should, Mr. Keely?" She appeared to think that we were going to injure her. There was a constant hawking and spitting, and her face was turned down, and away from us. She said she could not look any person in the face. While in this highly excited state, she said to her husband: "Mr. Keely, I want you to look me right in the face." Her face being turned downwards, and from him, he hesitated. Again she said: "Look me in the face, Mr. Keely." He leaned over to look her in the face, and, as soon as their eyes met, there was a simultaneous and frightful expression of horror—the wild anguish and terror in her countenance seemed to startle Mr. Keely, and he turned his head aside with strong marks of horror depicted upon his. All in the room appeared to feel the shock. We now succeeded in administering two grains of muriate of morphia, and also applied it over the blistered surface on the neck. Observing, heretofore, the tranquillizing effect which always followed the taking of drink, we urged her to try and swallow some coffee. She made repeated efforts, with persevering firmness, until she accomplished her object, which was followed by a considerable amendment of her symptoms. She drank more and more until she got down altogether about half a teacupful. In proportion as she took her drink, her wild, nervous, and delirious state subsided. She could now bear the full glare of the candle, and motion through the room produced much less disturbance. The hawking diminished, and there appeared to be an improvement in all her symptoms. Expecting that the large dose of morphia she had taken might produce a desire for sleep, we made a bed for her on the floor, and, after seating her on it, she appeared more composed and rational. After this, we offered her more drink. She took the cup, leaned over it, carrying her mouth towards the opposite side, and suddenly, to our great surprise, *lapped* up a mouthful with her tongue. This was followed by very little spasm. Her pulse was 115. After remaining with her until 10 o'clock P. M., and prescribing two grs.

of muriate of morphia, every three hours, we left her in a much more composed state of mind and body than we found her.

During our visit this evening, we proposed to her the operation of tracheotomy, but this was peremptorily refused by her husband. So far back in my professional life as I can recollect of being able to form any opinion of this most horrible disease, I have always thought that this operation would be of invaluable benefit, and I had come to the determination of carrying it into effect the first opportunity that offered. This opinion is now firmly established by all the phenomena of this unfortunate case. Although the probability is that the rapidity of the muscular exhaustion, which supervened upon this visit, would have rendered the operation in this instance and at this stage of the disease, useless, yet I am fully convinced that, if resorted to early in the attack, it would strip hydrophobia of its greatest horrors, if it did not cure it. I would demand it upon myself, if I should be thus afflicted. The spasms of the glottis, the constriction of the chest, the difficulty of deglutition, the sense of suffocation, and the intense anxiety and distress, would, in my opinion, vanish, and the administration of medicines and the taking of drink would be rendered comparatively easy. The operation is a simple one, and worthy of a trial. The horrid and incurable character of hydrophobia demands the experiment.

On Wednesday morning the 13th inst., at 7 o'clock A. M., I visited her alone. I was informed that she had about one hour's repose shortly after we left her last night, but the phlegm collecting in her throat had awakened her, and she continued awake during the remainder of the night. She took another two grain dose of morphia about 11 o'clock P. M., and remained tolerably composed until between 2 and 3 o'clock this morning. At 3 o'clock A. M. she took another powder of morphia, but this did not tranquillize her, and she continued to get worse until I saw her. During the night she had swallowed three or four cups of coffee. I found her exceedingly nervous, and nearly constantly in a state of wild delirium, and there was added to the whole look an appearance of horror and despair exceeding anything I had seen either in mania or any other kind of delirium. She looked wildly and suspiciously at every one entering her apartment, and believed that those around her wished to poison her, and kill her, and spoke about the operation. She was very talkative, her thoughts run wild, passing from one subject to another, sometimes serious and at other times sportive and humorous. She spoke also a great deal about her children,



and had a strong suspicion that "all was not right with them." She would wildly cry out, "Where's my children?" "Why don't Manasseh come?" "Where's Jackson?" "Where's Louisa?" "Bring them to me." "Ah! Keely! I knew it! I knew it!" "See, there hangs Louisa's apron." "Where's Jackson's shoes? all's not right with them." "Ah! Keely, I knew it!" Again she would break out: "Bring me my children, Keely! and if they kill me, let them be killed too, for I will not leave them here to be knocked about by strangers." She wanted to go home—to go down stairs—to dress and take a walk—and accused them of throwing handfuls of fur and black stuff in her face, and said that the fur was sticking in her mouth yet. She got up several times on her feet, but would sink down again from weakness and exhaustion. Once she suddenly started up and rushed through the kitchen door, but was immediately caught, and she sank down from the exertion. She succeeded in swallowing a little coffee, but was exceedingly suspicious of everything offered to her, and would examine it over and over again, before taking it. She complained of the air being loaded with fur, and of it coming into her face. The hawking was still frequent, and she spit out a great deal of the frothy mucus. Her pulse was small, weak, and frequent, between 130 and 140 in a minute, and her extremities cold. I observed that her bed had been much stained by the renal secretions during the night. Before leaving her I administered another two grain dose of muriate of morphia, which after a short time was spit out again imbedded in the froth.

At 9½ o'clock A. M., called with my brother and Messrs. Landis and Maxwell. We met the Rev. Mr. Davie there. He informed us that he had not been able to fix her attention. Her mind was exceedingly wandering and delirious, and very much as it had been at my last visit. She was rapidly sinking, her hands and feet and face were cold, pulse scarcely perceptible, and the action of the heart very feeble. There were no paroxysms of suffocation, some spasmodic twitching, and copious expectoration of froth. We now gave her, at repeated intervals, about three ounces of wine, which had no stimulating effect. There now appeared to be a general relaxation of the muscular system, extending to the coats of the intestines—shifting of wind, and borborygmus, followed by copious and frequent alvine discharges—the first that had occurred since the spasms had commenced. Her children were now brought in to see her. She looked at them awhile and said, "Take them away;

take them away." About 11½ o'clock A. M., she had the last symptoms of a spasm, which, though not violent, harassed her a good deal. She now drank a little more wine, and then I laid her down upon the pillow, after which she never moved. From this period on to the moment of her death, the phenomena of her case were singularly peculiar. Her body having been placed in an inclined position, her head was thrown back with her face directly upwards. Her mouth and eyes were open. There was not the least motion or disturbance of her countenance, no more action in her bowels, her pulse was lost, and there was not a muscle or a fibre seen to move, excepting those of respiration. The whole body and countenance seemed as passive as in death, and respiration was more like a mechanical than a vital action. She appeared as dead, and was only disturbed by the ingress and egress of air through the larynx. The depth of the inspirations became less and less, until at last they were lost in the larynx. The breathing was clear; there was no *rattle* in the throat indicating the collection of mucus in the air-vessels. This peculiar kind of respiration continued without interruption for about one hour, accompanied, at every expiration, with a very low moaning sound. The breathing now stopped, and all thought her dead; but in a few moments it commenced again, and went on as before. Again it stopped, and again commenced, and so on for 27 successive times, continuing until 1 o'clock P. M., when we looked for its return, but in vain. The moment of dissolution was not indicated by any of the usual evidences of the separation of soul and body. She appeared to experience nothing of the agonies of death. Before, at the time of, and after death, her appearance was precisely the same, and, at the intervals of suspended respiration, life could not be distinguished.

Throughout the whole course of the disease, after the spasmodic symptoms commenced, this unfortunate woman could not bear, except for a moment, a recumbent position. She sat on a chair the most of the time, and after the paroxysms became violent, was secured by a person sitting in front of her having hold of her wrists. There was not the least appearance of danger of her biting any person near her; nor among the variety of motions which she made was there any which looked like attempting to snap or bite at anything within her reach; and they who were about her had no apprehension of her doing so.

I have now concluded this most interesting case, and I have gone perhaps more minutely into its details than was required.

But as you desired a particular account of the case, I was anxious to give you a faithful history of it from beginning to end. This I was fully enabled to do, in consequence of taking notes of the case immediately after every visit. I am not conscious of having made one misstatement, either as respects her symptoms or treatment, or as regards the history of her own case as given to us by herself. All as it came to my knowledge, and in a conscious spirit of candor, is now before the public and profession, and if the latter can discover anything in the treatment or recommendations that can be avoided or adopted to the benefit of the community I shall rejoice in the discovery. It is most ardently desired that the profession will be soon able to say to their suffering patients, in the language of the 52d chapter of Isaiah, "Loose thyself from *the bonds of thy neck*, O captive daughter of Zion."





## APPENDIX.

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EXTRACTED FROM THE LANCASTER PAPERS.

### *Obituary.*

Died in this city, on Wednesday last, Mrs. ELIZABETH KEELY, wife of Mr. Jacob Keely, aged 33 years.

The melancholy circumstances connected with this untimely death are well known. Mrs. Keely was the victim of hydrophobia! When the first symptoms of this horrible disease were manifested, she endeavored, although hoping against hope, to console herself with the belief that her little family were not destined to become motherless, nor her doting husband cast upon the wide world—a blighted, widowed heart! But, alas! “who can control his fate?” She soon found that the portals of the dark valley were opened, and that all that bound her to the world, were to be left without her protection. Then it was that she gathered consolation from the Bible, and with a mysterious horror pervading every sense, and an uncontrollable agony racking her limbs, she yet had courage, even amid her pain, to turn a placid countenance upon her Redeemer. Her unexpected death has awakened in every heart the liveliest emotions of grief.

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The following general statement was drawn up by me at the request of the Editor. [W. L. A.] :—

### *Death by Hydrophobia.*

“We are called upon to announce the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Keely, wife of Mr. Jacob Keely, of this city, who died yesterday, the 13th instant, of hydrophobia.

"We are indebted to a friend for the following particulars of this distressing case: Mrs. Keely was attacked by a mad dog on Saturday, the 3d of November last, and bitten on the back of the hand, receiving an extensive lacerated wound, which penetrated to the sinews. She immediately consulted a physician, who ordered her to soak her hand in salt water, and afterwards to put on the wound a salt poultice. Feeling apprehensive of the result, she on Monday following commenced the use of Stoy's cure, and passed through a full and regular course of that medicine.

"Shortly after she had made use of these precautionary measures, the family removed from Philadelphia to Lancaster. Since their removal to this place she enjoyed good health until about three or four weeks ago, from which time until the period of her attack she said she 'was not very well.' The wound had healed up well, but the scar always remained tender and livid. On Wednesday evening, the 6th inst., she felt soreness on the back of the hand around the wound. On Thursday the soreness proceeded up her arm and reached her elbow. On Friday it had travelled up to her shoulder; when of her own accord she applied a blister below her shoulder.

"On Saturday, the pain in the arm being worse, and passing into the left breast and side of the neck, she sent for a physician, telling him, on his visiting her, that she 'had an attack of rheumatism in her arm.' During the early part of the following night, the pain left her arm, and settled at the lower part of her breast or pit of the stomach. Having retired to bed she was soon roused from her sleep by a sense of great anxiety, and stricture of the chest, with a sensation of smothering.

"Thirst coming on she attempted to drink, but found she could not swallow. The distress, anxiety, restlessness and sense of suffocation became worse until Sunday morning, when her physician was sent for. Apprehending the true character of the disease, he at once commenced a rigid course of treatment, which appeared to hold the disease in check, and for a time produced manifest amendment.

"This hopeful state of things, however, was succeeded on Monday night by symptoms indicating a rapid advancement of the disease. The spasms became alarming, the sense of smothering extreme, the horrors of countenance indescribable, and she fell into a state of the greatest nervous irritability. The flickering of a candle, the disturbance of the air in the room by walking, the approach of fluids towards her, and even breathing on her face



brought on the most awful spasms. She continued in this way until Tuesday morning.

"Throughout this day her spasms were not quite so violent as the night before, although her system was becoming more nervous and excitable. Towards evening her mind became wandering and delirious, making it difficult to fix her attention. Sometimes she became almost frantic. Near bedtime, however, she became more composed, and enjoyed a short repose; after which her mind became more and more unsteady until it ran into constant delirium.

"On Wednesday morning she became rapidly exhausted, and sunk into entire insensibility at half past 11 o'clock, from which time she lay perfectly calm until 1 o'clock, when her spirit left its earthly tenement!

"During the last two days of her illness, she was visited repeatedly by a clergyman, whose conversation and prayers had a most tranquillizing effect upon her. The objects of this earth most difficult to part with, were her three little children; but these, at last, she said she was willing to give up. There is every assurance that she was (to use her own language) 'ready and willing to go' to the regions of eternal bliss!"—*Lancaster Ex.*

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### *Distressing Death by Hydrophobia.*

Public feeling has been considerably excited during the past ten days by a lamentable case of hydrophobia in this city, which terminated on Wednesday last in the death of its victim, Mrs. Elizabeth Keely, the wife of a respectable tailor, Mr. Jacob Keely, living here, and the mother of an interesting family. She was just thirty-three years of age, and, during the visitation of this terrible malady, realized, by her heroic fortitude, all that we are told of the firmness of woman. She is originally from Philadelphia, in which city she resided a number of years with her husband. Early in November last, previous to which Mr. Keely came to Lancaster, and was employed as a journeyman by Mr. Martin Bomberger, she was bitten by a mad dog in Philadelphia, while taking her work one evening to her employer. She remained in Philadelphia four weeks after this, in all of which time she resorted to but one remedy (*not Stoy's medicine*, as it is erroneously stated by one of our city papers) which had been recommended to her by a person who had resorted to it with

success in a similar instance. This medicine, she vainly believed, had been as effectual in her own case, and she came to Lancaster in seemingly perfect health, and in the highest spirits, to join her husband. She continued to enjoy good health until the 7th instant, when, *for the first time*, she complained of pain in the back of her hand, where the wound was made. In a short time it extended to her shoulder, when she applied a blister. It may be well to state that during all this time she continued to do house-work, which she only relinquished on Friday evening, the 8th. Might not this exertion have hastened the calamity? On Saturday she sent for a physician, and expressed an apprehension that she had an attack of rheumatism. From this time the pain continued to increase, although in more than one region of the body, and on the evening of the same day, in attempting to drink water, she had the first spasm. Her physician, Dr. W. L. Atlee, adopted the most effectual measures at once, and with apparent benefit at first, but the awful sequel proved *only* apparently. He has won for himself much credit, by his unremitting attention to his unfortunate patient.

On Monday evening, the disease increased in violence, and thenceforward the horrid symptoms of hydrophobia, in its worst stages, were manifest. An eye-witness, one of her own attendants, informs us that the condition of the patient was alarming. She frothed very much, and her violent spasms seemed like so many attempts to dislocate her limbs, while her countenance was stamped with the intensity of her agony. She turned from water, or any other liquid, with horror; she was unable to remain quiet in the bed; she started up at the least noise; and expressed an utter loathing of food. She alternated between delirium and vacuity, and on Tuesday evening seemed to have respite from her intense sufferings, and became so far quieted as to obtain an hour's repose. She awoke in much agitation, and soon became quite delirious.

On Wednesday morning she was quite exhausted. She became insensible at about 11 o'clock, and at 1 o'clock died.

We have been induced to give this detailed account of this unfortunate affair, as well in justice to its importance, as to the husband of the late Mrs. Keely, and in order to correct the already numerous misstatements which have been made. We have it from his own lips, and can therefore vouch for its entire correctness. There are two points that he wishes to be particularly considered: 1st. That

Stoy's Medicine was not used at all; 2d. That she did not feel a symptom of hydrophobia until the 7th of the present month.

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### *A Painful Warning.*

The distressing death, which occurred the other day, adds another to the numerous warnings, already furnished, to guard against hydrophobia. It is plain that the only way this can be done, *is to exterminate the cause*—pass a law against dogs—and render it a penal offence in any citizen who permits them to run at large. So long as our streets and alleys contain more dogs than people, so long will it be unsafe for a man to walk abroad, and we *do* hope that some *rigorous* measure—general in its influence—will be at once adopted to protect the lives of the public. We are not an enemy to dogs, as such; but we sink all their supposed usefulness in the *fact* that they are liable to become maddened, and to infect rational beings with a terrible and incurable disease. Look at the late instance! A wife and a parent—mother of three children—withered away in her prime, and struck down, amid her own family! Of how much more value was not the life of this woman than all the dogs in the State? and yet one of them poisoned the fountain of her existence, and hurried her to a premature grave!

The reflection is awful; and the indispensable necessity of resorting to immediate measures to check a repetition of this fell disaster, forced upon us with irresistible earnestness. We hope the warning will not have been vainly given. We hope the matter will be attended to—and that *at once*. Walk along the streets now, and, wherever you look, your eye encounters one of the numberless tribe of lazy, useless, and quarrelsome dogs, which infest every town and village in the country. We say—away with them. We shall not recommend the means. Let that, however, be no scruple. Only let them be put out of the road of doing harm. We shall continue this subject. A town meeting in reference to it will be held *to-night*.



## EXTRACTS FROM THE PHILADELPHIA PRESS.

*Horrible Death by Hydrophobia.*

We learn that Mrs. Keely, wife of John Keely, a tailor formerly residing in this city, died in Lancaster on Wednesday last, of that fatal and horrible disease, hydrophobia, communicated by a bite of a dog in this city about four months since, before they moved to Lancaster. She was bitten by a dog in the street while returning home from market one morning, and apprehensive that the dog was in a rabid state at the time, she has since the occurrence taken such medicines as were recommended to her as a remedy for the disease. A few days previous to her death the alarming symptoms of the dreadful disease exhibited themselves, and the spasms continued to increase in violence until 11 o'clock on Wednesday forenoon, when she died, a victim of a criminal carelessness, probably on the part of the owner of the dog, and of a non-enforcement of the dog law. Mrs. Keely has left a husband and three small children to lament her melancholy fate. We are told that towards the last stages of the disease during her lucid intervals, she was conscious of her impending fate, and requested the attending physician to save her from the suffering which awaited her by bleeding her to death. This was of course declined, but the request shows the horror and dread of those suffering with the disease, and her melancholy end reproaches, in tones of thunder, those owning dogs running at large, contrary to law.

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*Mad Dogs.*

From the earnestness with which we have frequently called the attention of our authorities to this subject, we have been considered *rabid* by those who estimate the life of a worthless cur as more valuable than that of a human being. We have recommended to parents who have the least solicitude for their children, to kill off with *nux vomica* the thousands of dangerous curs which our city government have sometimes permitted to swarm in our streets; and we have been assailed for our pains by the whole pack of their owners, howling as ferociously as their *congenial quadruped* favorites. They have denounced us as *murderers*, as *monsters* of cruelty, for wishing to save human beings from the horrors of hydrophobia,

inflicted by some gamester's "pointer slut," some loafer's "bull terrier," or the Mount St. Bernard tame wolf of some profligate young idler. But these are not the only persons who keep dangerous and useless dogs. Whole bodies of worthy citizens do the same, under the impression or pretence that such animals are necessary to protect their property. Butchers and provision dealers assert a right to keep dogs as a species of tool of their trade; and the public generally accede to the opinion that no man can be a butcher without a bulldog. But these creatures are no more necessary to a butcher than to a blacksmith, a lawyer, a shoemaker, a physician, a clergyman, or a dealer in laces or ribbons. It is a mere *notion, unworthy of the age*, and which ought to yield, if not to *the march of intellect*, at least to the march of our efficient and faithful police. The dogs that swarm in Spring-Garden, and scatter hydrophobia through the city and suburbs, are kept more for the amusement of butchers' boys and apprentices, who delight in their ferocious battles, than for securing the property of master butchers.

The security afforded by watch-dogs is utterly precarious; for the most *faithful* may be bribed, and the most ferocious may be terrified. An old burglar, *hanged at last*, in Salem, Massachusetts, a few years since, after a long course of burglaries and nocturnal robberies, declared, in his final confessions, that he always disregarded the obstacle presented by a watch-dog; for he said that a sausage or other savory morsel rarely failed to quiet *the best*; and that when bribery would not avail, and terror was necessary, he invariably put the most ferocious to flight by *stripping to the buff* and rushing suddenly in at the door or through the window. The boldest dog is terrified by a sight so uncommon. It is like a *ghost* to a brave soldier; an enemy of a new order, whose supernatural powers he cannot measure, and therefore does not meet. We doubt not that the oldest and most expert thieves in this city can confirm the statement of their brother of Salem, and if they can, the only pretence for keeping dogs in cities is refuted. But if dogs are good watchers, good watchmen are better, and do not expose people to hydrophobia.

As we have been denounced as *murderers* for recommending the indiscriminate destruction of *unmuzzled curs*, we ask the husband and friends of Mrs. Keely, the late victim in Lancaster, whose views they most appreciate, our own or those of the dog owners? Yet the horrible fate of this lady may be the fate of any woman or child in this city, and we may ask every husband and father to bring the

case home to his own fireside. Are the friends of Mrs. Keely sufficiently outraged to justify a war of extermination against useless dogs? If so, we advise them to fill their pockets with sausages well drugged with *nux vomica*, and to throw a portion in the way of every dog which they meet without a muzzle. We know parents who are resolved upon this expedient, to save their children from the danger which the authorities of the different corporations will tolerate in the shape of dogs at large against law; and we know of a tribe of dogs, not a thousand yards from the Exchange, in Pear Street, Third Street, Walnut Street, Dock Street, and "all along shore." *A word to the wise is enough.*

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### *The Hydrophobia Case.*

We give, in another column, the highly interesting report of the Committee appointed in reference to the late distressing case of Hydrophobia. It will be seen that a number of persons have been benefited by the use of Stoy's medicine. In a particular stage of the disease which it is intended to cure, we have no doubt that it has and will prove effectual; and had it been properly administered to Mrs. Keely, under the care and attention of her husband, or some faithful and attentive nurse, we have no doubt but that lady would have been spared to her children and friends.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE LATE HYDROPHOBIA CASE AND TO TEST THE EFFICACY OF STOY'S MEDICINE.

At an adjourned meeting, held on the evening of the 4th March, 1839, at the Court House, John Mathiot, Esq., Chairman, G. Zahm, E. Shaeffer, Capt. J. Snyder, Dr. Ely Parry, and Joshua Jack, Vice Presidents, H. W. Gundacker, Secretary, the committee reported the following:—

In accordance with the resolution under which the committee were appointed in Town Meeting for the purpose of gathering information respecting Mrs. Stoy's remedy or preventive of Hydrophobia, the committee feel pleased in having ascertained a sufficiency (in their estimation) of evidence to enable them to recommend and urge the use of the genuine Stoy's Remedy.



The committee recommend it

*First*, Because it is the only preventive or remedy ever heard of, the medical faculty evidently being unable, either to prevent or to cure the disease.

*Second*, Because they have been enabled to come to the conclusion that Mrs. Keely did not receive the genuine Stoy's remedy, and shall continue so to think until Mrs. Stoy acknowledges that Mr. Niece is her regular agent, or has obtained from her the genuine recipe.

*Third*, Because the cases coming under the notice of the committee are such as to render it conclusive in their minds that those who have used it have been delivered, while they who have neglected it have suffered, although both may have been bitten by the same animal.

The committee therefore submit the following cases as the result of their investigation:—

Mr. John Brant, of Parkesburg, Chester county (formerly of this city), informed the committee that in December last his son, aged five years, died of hydrophobia; the particulars of which are as follows: "His son and (his neighbor) Mr. Hardman's daughter, of about the same age, were inseparable companions. A dog owned by Mr. H. was their particular favorite, being constantly with them. The boy received a wound from the dog by a scratch with his claw, above the eye, in October last, and two days after the girl was bitten in her cheek by the same dog. No apprehension was entertained of the dog being mad, although at times he would fight very fiercely with the dogs in the neighborhood, but would return home and remain passive, and it was not until a few days after that he went to a farm of Mr. Hope, a few miles distant, who was pleased with, and had intended keeping him, but in his repeated attacks upon the several animals on the farm, Mr. Hope soon discovered symptoms of hydrophobia, when he was immediately dispatched. He was compelled shortly after to kill several of his cattle which showed evident signs of madness.

"Mr. Brant having heard that the dog was certainly rabid, became very uneasy, and after having made particular inquiry respecting the manner in which the wound was inflicted, was assured by a person who had witnessed the attack upon his son, that the dog had not bitten him, but only reared on his hind legs in a manner frequently practised by those animals, and in descending scratched the child over the eye. This information allayed all apprehensions

on the part of Mr. Brant, and the matter was nearly forgotten, until, about six weeks afterwards, when the boy began to complain of want of appetite and a restlessness was observed. Shortly after he began to complain of his throat being very sore. The next day vomiting commenced; he was very thirsty; when water was brought at his request, the sight of which threw him into spasms immediately. The fears of Mr. Brant as to the cause of the dreadful malady were then only realized; two medical gentlemen were sent for; after their arrival he was bled, &c., but he died in less than an hour after.

"Two days after the daughter of Mr. Hardman was attacked in a similar manner; loss of appetite, inflamed throat, and even vomiting had commenced. Mr. H. having procured some of Stoy's medicine, it was given to the child, when immediately relief was obtained, and she is now perfectly well, three months having elapsed since she had the attack. Mr. Brant adds that he has every confidence in Mrs. Stoy's medicine as a cure for hydrophobia."

*To the Committee:* In the year 1814, whilst I lived in Drumore township, in this county, myself, John Fulman, Jr., John Bryan, and a colored boy, Jim, of my father's, were bitten by a dog of my own, which we had every reason to believe was mad. He bit, at the same time, three dogs, on the place, and then ran off. I never saw him afterwards, but heard of his having been killed, about eight miles from the place where he bit us. I was not bitten so severely as the others, the skin not having been broken on me; but Fulman and Bryan were bitten until the blood flowed freely; and Jim, the colored boy, had his finger considerably lacerated. Having heard of Mrs. Stoy's remedy in such cases, I, with my mother, proceeded to Lancaster, and we obtained of Mrs. Stoy four doses, one for each, and took them according to directions. Bryan lived with us for several years afterwards, although I do not know where he is now; Fulman lived in the family until 1828 or '29, when he took typhus fever, and died; Jim, the black boy, is now living and well, near Philadelphia.

Of the dogs that were bitten, two were killed, and one was confined in a useless hog-pen, without tying, for the purpose of ascertaining whether he would get mad or not. About thirteen or fourteen days afterwards, on coming to examine him, we found him completely mad, sitting in one corner of the pen, snapping and biting even at a shadow; there was no mistake or doubt about the matter. The dog was mad. We then shot him. I have no doubt of the efficacy of Stoy's remedy, after witnessing the above cases.

I have hastily drawn up this statement during office hours. It is not as full, perhaps, as the committee could wish it, but everything here stated is substantially correct. There are other little matters connected with it, but they do not go to make the statement more satisfactory.

(Signed) GEO. B. WITHERS.

February 21, 1839.

Mr. Andrew Selvert, of Lancaster, informed the committee that, in 1815, he was bitten by a dog, owned by Mr. Adam Metzgar. The dog having been from home several days, after his return, he, Mr. S., being glad to see the dog, in attempting to fondle him, he bit Mr. S. on the hand. In pulling his hand from the dog's mouth, it was considerably lacerated; he also received a bite in his other hand. His father made application to Mrs. Stoy, and received some medicine, which he made use of. He felt no further inconvenience from the bite, with the exception that the wound remained sore for some time, as it was kept open for about fourteen days, according to the direction of Mrs. Stoy.

Mr. Adam Metzgar stated that Mr. Selvert lived with him at that time. The same dog bit several hogs of Mr. Bear, which afterwards became mad, and were shot.

Mr. William Demuth, of Lancaster, states that he and Samuel Davis, and their servant girl, were bitten by their own dog. Supposing him mad, his father pent him up, and in this act was also bitten. In nine days from that time, the dog died in a rabid state. The only medicine they made use of was Stoy's. Neither of them felt any unpleasant effects after. Mr. D., fearing that he might not remember everything connected with the case, referred the committee to his mother, residing several squares from him. The committee proceeded to her house, and her statement corroborates the above.

Capt. John D. Wilson, of Salisbury township, informs the committee that, about thirty years since, John Middleton was bitten by his own dog in his hand, not knowing at the time he was mad. Some time after, the wounds became very sore, and the arm swelled, and was very painful. Mr. Wilson (captain's father) hearing that he was very ill, and being his tenant, called to see him, but returned very soon, and stated that the man was mad, and that he had spasms on him while he was there. He gave immediate direction for his horse to be brought, and went to Lancaster, and from there dis-



patched a messenger to Lebanon with all possible speed to procure Stoy's medicine. He received the medicine, and was informed if it was hydrophobia, and in a state far advanced, he would throw it up several times, but they should continue to repeat the dose until it would remain with him. When Mr. Wilson returned, Middleton did not recognize him. The medicine was administered; the third dose remained with him, and the medicine was continued. Middleton was perfectly cured, and several years after moved to the State of Ohio.

Mr. George Yeager, of Lancaster, states that in 1811 he was bitten by his father's dog. Several dogs in the neighborhood were also bitten, which were killed with the exception of one owned by Mr. Neyhoff, who confined him for the purpose of ascertaining what would follow. He died of hydrophobia. The only medicine made use of by Mr. Yeager was Stoy's.

Mr. Yeager further states that an old lady by the name of Hartley was bitten by their dog. Mrs. Hartley also made use of Stoy's remedy, and lived for several years after. Mr. Yeager's dog returned to the house again, when they confined him, and he died in a few hours after.

*Letter from Samuel Redsecker.*

ELIZABETHTOWN, February 22, 1839.

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 20th inst. came to hand, and in answer to your inquiry, I give you the particulars as remembered by mother. Some 20 or 25 years ago, a wagoner, with his team, stopped over night at father's tavern. He had a dog. It was observed by his fellow-wagoners in company that there was something wrong with the dog. My father and Sister Mary were bitten by him, and the owner likewise. The dog was secured by tying him to the wagon, but during the night he broke loose, and one or two miles from town he bit a Mrs. Koch. My father got Stoy's medicine for himself, my sister, and Mrs. Koch, neither of whom were any further affected by the bite of the dog. The wagoner proceeded on his journey. The returning wagoners reported that he died of hydrophobia.

I am yours, &c.,  
SAMUEL REDSECKER.

The committee have had numerous cases before them besides those reported; but believing those sufficient to lay before the meeting, they would respectfully conclude by adding that they felt it their duty to insert in their report a letter from Mr. Niece, although it was not received from him by any member of the committee, but by a gentleman who felt considerable interest in the late case of hydrophobia in this city. They cannot account for the feelings which are expressed by *Mr. Niece* for Mrs. Keely. They will leave the public to judge, as all the information which Mr. Keely gave to the committee is reported. They would further add that in the treatment of every case which came before them, where Stoy's remedy was made use of, nothing has been stated that any directions were given to change their clothing. They have, therefore, no hesitation in saying that they do not believe the recipe which Mr. Niece states he is sworn to keep secret to be the genuine Stoy's receipt.

Mr. Jacob Keely, being introduced to the committee, stated that his late wife had not received any of Mrs. Stoy's medicine; the medicine which she made use of as a preventive of hydrophobia she obtained from Mr. Niece, in Race Street, Philadelphia, as she also stated in a letter to him before coming to Lancaster, which was mixed in water before taking. He was present when she was asked by the physician in attendance whether she had taken any of Stoy's medicine. Her answer was *yes*, but in his opinion her mind was such at the time that her answer could not be relied on. The following is the letter alluded to from Mr. Niece:—

RESPECTED SIR: By your letter dated February 20th, I learn that you are very anxious to know what kind of medicine the late unfortunate Mrs. Keely had been taking, after she was bitten by the mad dog. I feel it my duty to state the truth, that, induced by motives of compassion for Mrs. Keely, and by request of others, the celebrated Stoy's medicine (prepared exactly according to the recipe) was administered, but I cannot say whether the manner of taking the medicine, with the prescribed diet, change of clothes and other rules to be observed by it, were properly attended to, as Mrs. Keely had to attend to the housework herself, without assistance. She only retained one dose on her stomach and two she threw up again. More I cannot state, being bound by oath not to publish the recipe. Mr. Keely, who was present, by writing this, is perfectly satisfied with the statement, and said he is sorry for what he



said at the meeting, and wishes that you would show this to Dr. Atlee, sending his best respects.

Yours respectfully,  
HENRY NIECE.

PHILADELPHIA, FEBRUARY 24, 1839.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. ZIMMERMAN,  
HENRY KEFFER,  
C. KEIFER,  
DAVID LONGENECKER,  
SAML. E. GUNDAKER,  
JACOB RATHFON,  
H. F. BENEDICT.

On motion,

A committee was appointed to confer with Mrs. Stoy, respecting her remedy for the cure of "Hydrophobia."

The committee are the same that made the above report.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the different papers of the city.